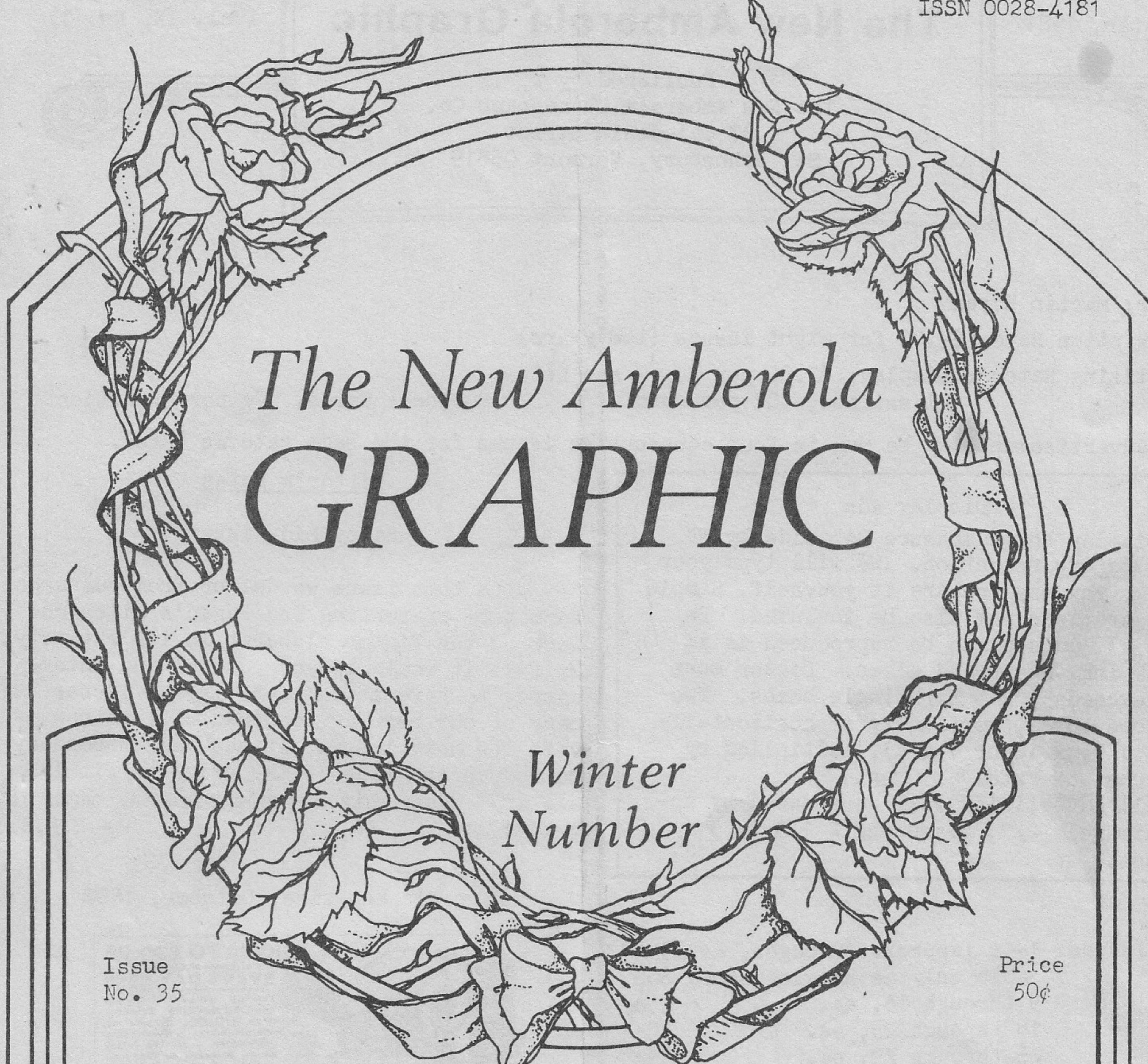


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Winter, 1981

The New Amberola Graphic

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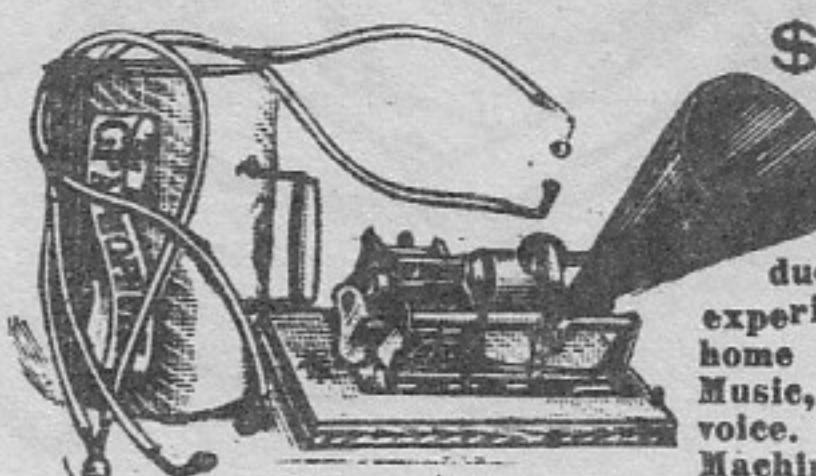
Editor's Notes

Happy Mid-Winter

With this issue we detour from our usual format by presenting Ted Fagan's milestone work on the Victor alphabet in its entirety. We felt it would be more useful and interesting to have it complete in one issue; many of our regular features will return with the next issue. It was also necessary to reduce the size of the print to fit it all in. Hope this doesn't pose too much of a problem!

- M.F.B.

Harper's Magazine, October, 1898



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"Mention The Graphic—It identifies you"

THE VICTOR ALPHABET *

* Being "An Alphabetical Listing of the Use of Letters in the Designation of Categories, Sizes, Dates and Other Details of Recordings Made by Victor and RCA Victor"

From the very beginning of its operation under the trade name of VICTOR, the company used letters to differentiate one type or size of recording from another. Although this same practice had been - and was to be - applied by other companies, Victor was one of the most consistent in its virtually unswerving uses of letters. Thus, a Matrix that bore an initial "B" was always a 10" record, regardless of all and any other details. However, with the changes in recording techniques and the multiplication of studios, recording locations and travelling units, new letters and combinations of letters had to be devised.

To a large extent, these became "Codes" which had to be deciphered and broken since most of the memoranda explaining the details to the different Departments of the company have either disappeared or not been available for study.

I think that this listing is comprehensive, and I have tried to include in it everything, however esoteric and seemingly incidental to the interest of the "average" discographer or collector. If, nevertheless, there are omissions, I would be very grateful for any help and assistance that may be given me.

The listing has been a spin-off from the compilation known at one time as "The Victor Project" which I have been making in collaboration with William R. Moran of California. The Victor Project has been re-named - for many reasons - the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RECORDINGS : Part 1 : VICTOR. - and when it is finally published, will probably include this and many other articles that may have been extracted from it.

The ERV is a COMPLETE listing of every recording made by Victor since 1900 and up to 1950 and includes Commercial records, Private ones, Special ones, transfers from film to wax, Transcriptions for Broadcasting, Radio Spot Commercials ordered by Private firms, etc., and will probably amount to over a quarter of a million entries. These include dates, take numbers, compositions of groups or orchestras, release or catalogue numbers, both original and re-issues, etc. Most of the huge mass of information is already prepared for publication and studies are being made regarding its transfer to computer tapes.

The period from 1900 to 1903 (the Pre-Matrix era), and that going to the end of 1909 will most probably be published within the next few months in a limited edition and when the Uniform Edition is prepared, this first portion will probably also be re-issued.

This present listing is composed of the following sections :

- I - Alphabetical list of all uses of letters for both Matrix and Catalogue purposes.
- II -- The Matrix numbering Code established in 1951.
- III-- The Matrix numbering Code established in 1954.

Quite a few of my colleagues and friends have aided in the preparation of the original data for the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RECORDINGS : Part 1 : Victor, from which, as I have said, this listing has been drawn and to one and all go my appreciation - and my apologies for omissions or errors which I hope they will help me correct when the final copy is prepared for the definitive publication.

Ted Fagan
155 E. 77th St. #D
New York, NY 10021

The use of letters in Victor's designation of Categories, Sizes, dates and other details of recordings.

A.

- A when used as a single PREFIX indicates a 7 inch record whether Pre-Matrix or Post-Matrix period.
- A General prefix to Matrix used in United Kingdom to designate use of US material (i.e. A-27342 could be either B-27342 or C-27342)
- A In Matrix numbering Code (15 August 1951 to 10 December 1954) as a FIRST LETTER indicates that the original matrix (1st.generation) from which this was copied, had been made between 1910 and 1919 (i.e.:A2-RC-0008 : re-recording of a 1912 original)
- A When used in the SECOND POSITION of the 1951 Code, indicates Country or Western Music.
- A ALBUM designation for Argentina (i.e. A-49)
- A when following take number :1,1A,2,2A or even 1AR,2AR served to indicate the following : Selections were recorded SIMULTANEOUSLY on two turntables - the usual one and a 'back-up' one. This latter allowed a 'play-back' when necessary without damaging the 'take 1' wax. The two are identical versions and cannot be considered different unless so specified in the listings. When the '-A' take was used, this is indicated at 9 o'clock on the inner margin of the record, but usually this wax was reserved for 'rerecordings to supply new masters' when the '-1' take had worn out. It is this '-A' take that is referred to when mention is made of "Reference Acetates made" and indicates that one of these waxes was actually processed and/or kept for studio or technical use.
- AA Victor Records Advance Auditions (i.e. AA-27 to 29)
- A-165 Hill and Dale Special Job (double faced) as per M.F.Scott (1937 ?)
- AA-1000 to 1002 Victor Records Advance Auditions.
- A-9 ALBUM Export - sides 1 to 24 only :ORFEO CATALA - 1928.
- AFB Records made for the American Foundation for the Blind, Inc.(SPECIAL RECORDS)
- A-1 to 100 Record numbers for Japanese 10" records.
- A-2000,3000,4000 ditto
- AQ Matrix prefix used by South America.(US prefix equivalent:BSHQ)
- AP Issue designation for Popular Tapes as of 1956
- A In album designation indicates AUTOMATIC SEQUENCE of records (i.e.AM,AC,AP,etc) (sequence of sides was 1/5 2/6 3/7 4/8)- discontinued August 1941.
- ADT Album Number for "Capitol Records" (Their catalogue series:54-....)(Feb.1949)
- AV-600 to 626 SPECIAL SERIES made for Armen Vahe Radio Record Co., 561 Mt.Auburn St. Watertown, Mass.(Turkish) - "The Orient".
- AC Arcraft Service : Theatre Service Corporation - Screen Broadcast Service. 6 and 8 inch records. (see SPECIAL SERIES)
- A When following Catalogue or Release number, indicates first side of record.
- a In numbering Code in effect from 10 Dec.1954 , when used as a first letter, indicates that the recording was made in 1975.
- ARUBA records - see NW Prefix.
- A Matrix Prefix sometimes used to denote a 12" acoustical recording made in BUENOS AIRES,Argentina.(The 10" size was denoted by the prefix "R"(qv)

B

- B when used as a single PREFIX indicates a 10 inch acoustical record.
- B BLUEBIRD Catalogue Number for 78 rpm's.
- B In Matrix numbering Code (15 August 1951 to 10 December 1954) as a FIRST LETTER indicates that the original matrix (1st.generation) from which this was copied, had been made between 1920 and 1929.(i.e.B2-RC-0007)
- In above Numbering Code, when in the THIRD POSITION, indicates a BLUEBIRD record.
- In same numbering Code, when in the FOURTH POSITION, indicates a 10 inch, 78 rpm. (i.e. D5-VB-2478)
- B In the Matrix numbering Code (used after 10 December 1954) in the FOURTH POSITION indicates that the new matrix (2nd.generation) was taken from an original 10", 78 rpm, Standard RCA Victor Commercial record.
- BA Matrix pre-fix used in Argentine plant for 10" acousticals, 78 rpm.
- BAVE ditto - for electrics.
- BB For a short while in the early teens this was used as a Pre-fix to indicate a LONGER (although still 78 rpm. and with standard grooves) than usual record.
- BBVE Matrix pre-fix used in Brazil plant for 10" electrical 78 rpm.
- BCVE ditto - but for 12" electrical records.
- BC Bluebird Children's Record sets (see also WBC)
- BE-5-VB Brazil plant Matrix numbers for tapes - 1956.
- BK-1 to 10 Bluebird KIDDIE Record Catalogue numbers (3 June 1936)
- BKW-101 etc. B.K.Ware - Special Sound for Modernophone - PERSONAL - 25 Jan.1945. (Black and white records - special job handled by Frank B.Waler and Guy Wells - before June 1945)
- BN-3 Bluebird Non-breakable Album Number. (Apparently used only on 29 July 1949 for "South Pacific"
- BP Bluebird Popular Album Series

- BRG Victor Electric Eye - 10" - 78 rpm - electricals.
- BS Victor High Fidelity 10", 78 rpm records - April 1934
- BSHQ Victor Semi High Quality 10", 78 rpm, electricals - 1932
- BTL Bell Telephone Laboratories - 1927 to 1929
- BVE Matrix pre-fix for 10" electrical 78 rpm records.(see NOTE after B series for dates)
- B-0001 to 0010 RED SEAL Catalogue numbers used in Brazil(per Jack Lindeman 19 Jun.'49)
- B-0500 to 0512 RED SEAL double faced numbers - ditto
- BX-0225 et.seq. Chinese Matrix numbers
- B When following Catalogue or Release number, indicates second side of record.
- B Brazilian Album numbers for Popular series
- BE Bluebird 10" - Envelope Album (see also WBE)
- BK 12" Albums for 78 rpm - Popular Classics series
- BS Bluebird International US-Foreign Album numbers.
- b When in first position of Matrix numbering code after 10 December 1954 - indicates that original was made in 1976
- BE Matrix prefix used for a short time during March 1925 to designate Electric recording. Replaced by the BVE matrix.
- BUDRICK - SPECIAL ISSUES - see JB prefix.

BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE CLASSROOM - see SPL Prefixes.

NOTE REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF VE prefixes to denote ELECTRICAL RECORDINGS.

- BE/CE Matrix prefixes were used during the change-over from acoustical to electric recordings.
According to the Recording books, the following appears :
"26 February 1925 : CVE-31874-3 VICTOR EIGHT ARTISTS :Medley - Part 1 FIRST ELECTRICAL CATALOGUE NUMBER : 35753.
"11 March 1925 :(written in pencil: "First Electrical recording per A. Pulley,Chief Engineer Recording - 27 February 1953 - Western Electric equipment used".
CVE-30045-2,3 Olga SAMAROFF (pf.solos) - not approved - not issued"
According to the Diaries of Raymond Sooy:
"11 March 1925 : Mme.Olga SAMAROFF was the first artist to make (electrical) records for commercial use".
"31 July 1925 - "We made our first electrically recorded records in the New York Studio (R.Soo & E.Raguse). Artist for this date : Mr. Jack Shilkret's Orchestra.
According to Diaries of Owen and Hewitt (Electrical Engineers in charge of Electrical Recording)
"13 December 1923 : Today Madam Olga SAMAROFF was in our laboratory for a short time, she played one selection (Dance of the Gnomes)".
From the above, it becomes clear that although earlier experiments had been made, the official recognition as the FIRST electrical recording artist must go to Mme. Olga SAMAROFF, the title for the FIRST electrical Catalogue number belongs to Mr. Jack Shilkret's Orchestra" and the crucial date must be set as 26 February 1925.
The Group known as Victor Eight Artists was composed of : Henry BURR,CAMPBELL, MEYER, Frank CROXTON, Billy MURRAY, Frank BANTA, Rudy WIDOEF under Jack SHILKRET.

- C when used as a single PREFIX indicates a 12 inch, 78 rpm record, acoustical. (after electrical recordings, is followed by VE to designate these).
- C Csardas Phono Company(Alex Kammer and Donald Gabor); SPECIAL JOBS.(see also its successor :Continental Recording Co., 1841 Broadway, New York City.
- C Album designation used in CHILE (1943) for Popular series.
- C-1 Album sets - Collections
- C-1/A/B Continental record (d/f) - 10" - Bohemian - 6 March 1941 - SPECIAL,PERSONAL. C-1111/2 ditto 10" 26 March 1941 ditto
C-1550 to 1590 TIMELY TUNES series.
- CAE CAMDEN Label - Extended Play -45 rpm- single record.
- CA-9 et seq. Japanese 10" - 78 rpm - Catalogue number prefix.
- CAL CAMDEN LABEL - 33 1/3 rpm - 12" (This label, coloured variously magenta or cerise with black ink - started about August 1953 - and was used for Popular Standards, Red Labels and Symphonies many of which were shown with fictitious names (see Appendix to this listing.)
- CBSF Albums of CAPITOL records - their record numbers were in the 54-'s series.
- CBVE Chilean plant - used as Matrix pre-fix for 10" - 78 rpm, electrical
- CCC Code used by RCA to denote : CATALOGUE CONCENTRATION CAMPAIGN - 1941
- CCF Albums of CAPITOL records - February 1949.
- CC-5 Tapes - formerly TC-5
- CCVE Chilean plant - used as Matrix pre-fix for 12" - 78 rpm, electrical
- CDC Chicago Studio - usually followed by year number.
- C In matrix numbering code (15 August 1951) as a FIRST POSITION, indicates that the original matrix from which this was copied had been made between 1930 and 1939.
When used in the SECOND POSITION, it indicates "Custom Record by RCA".
When used in the THIRD POSITION, it indicates a 12" - 78 rpm - standard.

In the matrix numbering code (10 December 1954) in the THIRD POSITION, it indicates Children's record.

When in the FOURTH POSITION, it continued to indicate a 12" original.

CE-1-4 Catholic Education - Lives of the Saints and Stories from the Faith and Freedom series - a Special Custom Job - 14 June 1949

CE Transfer from a Gramophone Co. record of England - "Animal Language Matrix Number" - i.e. CE-9010 et seq.

CE Catalogue number for single record, Extended play CAMDEN Label.

CFL Catalogue number for six record Long-play CAMDEN label.

CCL Catalogue number for seven record Long Play Camden set.

Chevrolet Dealers see L-1100 prefixes.

CL-1 to 100 Japanese Catalogue numbers.

CLP-1 Repack for Envelope Long play set for CAMDEN Label.

CLP-2 Rock Jobbers (10 records) - SPECIAL - 13 May 1957

CLPG-6 Gramophone Company Long Play - Limited Edition Album : GLENN MILLER.

CM Clipper Merchandising Prefix (Chinese)

CO Collections Albums - Manual only - 26 September 1947

Cole Publishing Company - see Z prefix.

Country Life Press see TK prefix.

CP-1 Tape - formerly TP-1 - Popular music - Special 1955

CPS-69 Tape - Stereophonic Tape.

CRC Victor Electric Eye - 12" - 78 rpm - electricals.

CRS Collector's Shop - Special Series pressed by Victor - not always of original Victor records (see also IRCC)

CR-1 Custom record - G8-OL-8833 - 10" - 33 1/3 rpm - "12 October 1956 - intended to be issued once a month"

CS Victor High Fidelity 12" - 78 rpm - electricals.

CROWN Record Company - Special series carrying Gold and Orange labels with black printing. Masters were also used for HOMESTEAD and GEM series. Catalogue numbers carried no pre-fix, nor did the Matrices which were NOT sequential to the Victor normal series.

CSHQ Victor Semi High Quality 12" - 78 rpm. electricals.

CT Used for catalogue numbers 12001, 12100 et seq. - Overseas(International Division) - 21 November 1952.

CTB ditto - these two were used for re-coupling of 10" 33 1/3 rpm for Latin American Popular records and Albums.

CVE Matrix prefix for 12" electrical 78 rpm. records.(see NOTE under 'B' for dates)

CE Matrix prefix used for a short time in March 1925 to denote 12" electrical recording. Replaced by the CVE prefix.

CU Matrix prefix for acetates (Prestos) imported from CUBA and dubbed for distribution with US Catalogue numbers.

CONCERT CAMEOS - see Prefix LRM

CONCERT CAMEOS COLLECTORS SERIES - see Prefix LRT

CULTURAL LEAGUE OF AMERICA, Inc, Doubleday Doran - see GC prefix.

D

D when used as a single prefix indicates 14" commercial 78 rpm.

D when in the FIRST POSITION of 1951 Matrix Code, indicates that original record was made between 1940 and 1949

D when used in FOURTH POSITION of both 1951 and 1954 Matrix Codes, indicates a 10" - 33 1/3 rpm Standard or Transcription record.

D Demonstration records for Advertising Dept.of RCA. (Orange label with brown letters) - Numbers 1 to 11 on Cream paper, lettering in Brown.

D Albums : denotes 'Drop Automatic' series - order of records was 1/8 2/7 3/6 4/5 (see difference in case of Automatic series).

D Catalogue designation for Black Label, HMV records.

D 'Digest' when used as Album No. SPD-1

DA HMV designation of 10" - European equivalent of US RED SEAL.

DA-32 Album : THE BIBLE SPEAKS - 1 March 1949 (contents:28-0431 to 0433)

DB HMV designation of 12" - European equivalent of US RED SEAL

DBK Dance Band Kits - Merchandise Administration Section - 11 September 1950

DC Drop Automatic series for Light Classical records (see Drop Automatic above)

DC-1 Duck calling - double faced - for Claypoole - SPECIAL - December 1940

DC Green Victor Dance Records Club, Yokohama, Japan (Gold lettering on Green label) - (21214)

DC-10 Tape - Special - 1955

DDJ Dealers' Distribution or Distributor disc.

DI-2 Radio Tone Demonstration record.

DJ-1 to 100 Disc Jockey Records (last issued March 1957)

DL-1 for Limited Edition "The Seasons" Numbers 18-0038 to 0041 - see under "L" Album.

DL-5 Long Playing Demonstration record :"Victor Artist's Party".

DM Drop Automatic Albums for Musical Masterpiece series.

DMM SPECIAL 12" - LP - made for Nieman-Marcus Co.

DPL RCA Special Products Division - 12" - LP album - double record (2-0075) sold by mail.

DR Matrix pre-fix for acetates(Prestos) imported from the Dominican Republic and dubbed for distribution with US Catalogue numbers.

DS-1,2,3 Spanish - "How to use Home Recordings" - 1930 (Black scroll/White and Gold/ and White and Blue labels).

DS-100 to 109 Spanish - Slide records (White and green labels)

DS-110 Special Record Export.

d when used in 1954 Matrix Code in first position, denotes records made in 1978.

E

E when used as a single Matrix prefix, denotes 8" - 78 rpm - acoustical record.

E when used as a FIRST letter in Catalogue numbers indicates Extended Play - 45's.

E when used in FIRST POSITION in 1951 Matrix Code, indicates records made from 1950 to 1954

E when used in SECOND POSITION in 1951 Code, indicates Educational records.

E when used in THIRD POSITION in 1954 Code , indicates Educational records.

E when used in FOURTH POSITION in either Code, indicates 33 1/3 rpm - 12" - Standard or Transcription record.

E- Album - indicates Educational series (15 to 66)

EC Matrix prefixes of acetates(Prestos) imported from ECUADOR and dubbed for distribution with US catalogue numbers.

EC-10 Code for Two-Volume ET units - Supplement 1944.

EEA Album : Educational - 7" - 45 rpm - 1 record.

EEAT Album : Educational Collectors - 7" - 45 rpm - 1 record.

EEBT ditto - 2 record set.

EECT ditto - 3 record set.

EEE Catalogue number for Educational - 45 rpm - (5 record set)

EFB Catalogue number for Faith records - 45 rpm - 2 record set.

EFAB ditto - 3 record set

EHA His Masters Voice series - 7" - 45 rpm.

EJB Catalogue number for Jazz records - 45 rpm - 2 record set.

EJC ditto - 3 record set.

EKA Catalogue number for Musical Shows - 1 record. 45 rpm/ replaces WEPP (15 Aug.'52)

EKB ditto - 2 record shows.

E1 Catalogue numbers for ELECTRADISC (Orange and blue design and lettering). A series produced by Victor - usually from the Bluebird catalogue and sold mainly by Woolworths.

EM Album : Envelope Masterpieces - also used for Heritage series.

EMI Electrical Musical Industries, England - Parent company.

EOA Catalogue number : Original Cast Albums - 45 rpm - 1 record set.

EOAT ditto - Collectors or Treasury record.

EOB Catalogue number : Original Cast albums - 45 rpm - 2 record set.

EOC ditto - 3 record set.

EOD ditto - 4 record set.

EP Indicates 'Extended Play' records - 45 rpm - usually up to 8 minutes per side of 7 inch records.

EP-1 et seq. Engineer Products - d/f record - numbers for Organ and Chimes made by NBC during July 1946 by Sound Systems Division and supplied to Churches and Funeral Parlors.

EPA Catalogue number for Popular 45's - single records.

(The 4000 series is NOT from LP's but are new as of 1 October 1956)

EPAT Catalogue number for Popular 45's Collectors single record.

(The 6000 is a Special 6 record set)

EPB Catalogue Number for Popular 45's - 2 record set.

EPBB Catalogue Number - 7" - Extended play - SPECIAL GARDEL ALBUM.

EPBT Catalogue number : Popular 45's - Collectors series - 2 record set.

EPBX same as EPB - probably intended for Export mainly.

EPC Catalogue Number for Popular 45's - 3 record set.

EPCT Catalogue number for Popular 45's Collectors - 3 record set.

EPF Catalogue number - Popular 45's - 6 record set.

EPFT Catalogue number - Popular Collectors records - 6 record set.

EPOT Catalogue number : Popular 45's Collectors - 15 record set.

ERA Catalogue number - RED SEAL - 45's - single record (replaces WEPR notation)

ERAB Catalogue number : Bluebird 45's - single record.

ERAT Catalogue number : RED SEAL - 45's Collectors or Treasury - single record.

ERAS Album : 45's for Mexico

ERATO RED CLASSICAL 45's

-BT - 2 record set

-CT - 3 record set.

6.

ERB Catalogue number : Concert Cameo 45's - 2 record set. Also used for RED SEAL 45's - 2 record set.

ERBT Catalogue number : RED SEAL 45's Collectors - 2 record set.

ERC ditto - 3 record set.

ERD ditto - 4 record set

ESA Album : Spanish, International or Foreign - single record.

ESAT Album : Spanish, International or Foreign Collectors - single record.

ESB Album : Spanish, International or Foreign - 2 record set.

ESBT Album : Spanish, International or Foreign Collectors - 2 record set.

ESC Album : Spanish, International or Foreign - 3 record set.

ESCT Album : Spanish, International or Foreign Collectors - 3 record set.

EYA Catalogue number for Children's 45's - singles.

EYB ditto - 2 record set.

e When used in FIRST POSITION for 1954 Matrix numbering code, indicates records made in 1979.

F Matrix prefix for 10" acousticals probably made in Buenos Aires - 1907-1908.

F when used in SECOND POSITION of 1951 Code indicates FOREIGN:RECORDED IN USA.

F when used in FIRST POSITION of 1954 Code indicates record made in 1955

F when used in THIRD POSITION of 1954 Code indicates Slide Film - Frequency rec.

F when used in FOURTH POSITION of 1954 Code indicates 10" - 33 1/3 rpm - Universal and Custom Department.

F Catalogue number used for one of the series of STANDARD RECORDS which were produced by Victor NOT from Victor masters.(see also T series)

F-1 Album : used for Album of 40th. Anniversary

F-101 et seq. Matrix prefix used for Fox Movietone transcriptions.

F-2 used for Victrola Demonstration Album.

F-197 "Fatigue" record series. Used by Industrial Sound Division, Indianapolis.

FCS Tape - Special - started April 1955

FCSD ditto

FI Matrix prefix used for acetates(Prestos) imported from The Philippines and dubbed for distribution on US Catalogue numbers.

FI-1 & 2 Custom Matrix numbers for HARMONICA CLUB RECORD CORPORATION, (8 May 1945) - Their own numbers carry "H" prefix.

F-300 Album number for Faith series - 10" - (29-oooo series)

FR-1 et seq. Matrix prefix for Firestone Company Custom records.

4-CR Special Order of 500 records for Costa Rica - 45's - 6 March 1956

4-G Record number for "GROOVE" label - 7" - 45's

4-H used for 4-H Clubs (Educational Department)

4SDO Special Distributor order for Myer R.Beak - 250 records - 45's

FS-1 Album for Special Horowitz Container (WDM-1115; 1165; 1249)

FS-1 et seq. "Fast Sellers" Sleeve number - 7" - from stock under original Album number and also for records for WORDS AND MUSIC PROGRAM - 22 August 1950.

4S-DO Special 45's - Distributor order for Speer Family - 23 May 1957

4M Sale Record company - 12" 78's - usually for Jazz

G

G when used as a single Matrix prefix, indicated 10" records, acoustically made by travelling engineers of Victor in any of the following places : Havana,Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Caracas,Santiago(Chile),La Paz,Arequipa(Peru) Lima - between 1907 and 1908. The 12" corresponding series carried the prefix "K"

G when used in the FIRST POSITION of the 1954 Code, indicates that the record was made in 1956

G when used in the THIRD POSITION, the record was made by GRAMOPHONE CO.,of England (13 March 1956)

G when used in the FOURTH POSITION, it indicates a 5" - 78 rpm - SPECIAL record which was sold for 85 cents.

G used as a Matrix prefix for Peru between 1917 and 1921 and for Ecuador in 1917.

G Single record release : Rhythm and Blues - 10" - 78 rpm and 7" - 45 rpm.

G "In album prefix is the seventh letter of the alphabet, therefore, 7 records in set (14 December 1953)

GA-001 A/B Greek Announcements for STANDARD PHONOGRAPH COMPANY.

GC Garden City Talking Books - Mother Goose,(Alan Beard and Alice Remsen) - name changed to The Cultural League of America, Inc., Doubleday Doran - 2 September 1942.

GEM see explanation for CROWN records many of which were also issued on this label during the Depression years.

GP-1 & 2 Gift package for the Armed Forces.

G-1 Album - Greek Melodies (S-509 to 511 for Orthophonic Recording Co.)

G-2 et seq. Album sets Black label Classics - 1940 numerical catalogue.

G-500 SPECIAL series for Ginn & Co. and consisted of the following:
 -505 - 1 10" record
 -510 - 2 10" records
 -525 - 6 12" records
 -540 - 10 12" records
 -560 - 12 12" records.

H

H when used as a single Matrix prefix indicates 10" records made in Havana, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil between January 1911 and May 1912. The 12" prefix used for this series was "J"

H when used in 1951 Matrix numbering Code in THIRD POSITION indicates "Groove" records - 18 Jan.1954 When used in FOURTH POSITION indicates 7" - 45's (March 1954)

H when used in 1954 Matrix numbering Code in the FIRST POSITION, indicates records made in 1957. when used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 7" - 45's - Extended Play RCA Commercial.

H-10 6" - Home recording Blanks - 1932
 -74 12"- ditto
 -100 10"- ditto
 -500 12" ditto

H-1301 Custom Record for HARMONICA RECORD CORPORATION.

HFRS Special job for Harold Flanner,Inc.

HJ Album : For American Hot Jazz classics - 31 Oct.'1944

HK Matrix prefix for acetates(Prestos) imported from Hong-Kong and dubbed for distribution with US Catalogue numbers.

HMV His Master's Voice records.

HOMESTEAD - see NOTE under CROWN records.

HRS Historical Record Society - re-issues for William Speckin - 1937 (see also note for CRS)

H-R- Home recording materials

HTA-1 Tape - Pre-recorded Gramophone Co. material - First release 18 August 1954

HTB-401 ditto

HTC-1 ditto

I

IRCC INTERNATIONAL RECORD COLLECTORS CLUB - rerecordings made for William H. Seltsam as of 16 February 1932. (see also NOTE for CRS)

J

J when used as a single Matrix prefix, indicates 12" version of "H" series (qv)

J Album : Children's and Youth Albums.

J when used in the FIRST POSITION of 1954 Matrix numbering Code, indicates records made in 1958. when used in THIRD POSITION indicates Blues, Rhythm and Jazz records. when used in FOURTH POSITION indicates 7" - Custom and Standard 33 1/3 rpm.

J when used as a SECOND LETTER for LP records, indicates Jazz (i.e. LJ)

J-1000 Special job for Joseph Jiran.

J-10000 Japanese P.C. - 10" (sic)
 -20000 ditto
 -40000 ditto
 -54000 ditto

JAS Album numbers for Japanese Red Seal

JA-1130 Black label 0 used by Yokohama,Japan - 12" - 1941

JA-1208 Japanese 10" - d/f

JA-5004 Catalogue number for re-listed "Reserved Albums"

JB Special job for Joseph Budrick, 3417 South Helstead Street, Chicago, Ill.(Orange label with orange lettering) - 10" - 78's.

JB Japanese - Black label - 12" 1941

JC Used as Catalogue Number for Popular Album Selections.

JD Used before Catalogue number series of Yokohama,Japan for 12" Red Seal - November 1941.

JE Japanese 10" Red Seal.

JE when followed by 4 digits : Japanese Matrix Numbers.

JF ditto

JH ditto for Red Label - 12"

JK ditto

JM Japanese - Yellow Label - 10" - 1941

JP Album for Popular 10" records.

JR Used for Special job for Just-Rite Pet Foods - Yellow and Black labels showing a Singing Canary. (Milwaukee,Wisconsin)

JS when followed by 4 digits - Japanese Matrix numbers

K	
K	when used as single Matrix prefix, indicates 12" version of "G" series(qv)
K	Catalogue prefix used for Special Yorkville Co.Records (qv)
K	when used in the THIRD POSITION of 1951 Matrix numbering Code, indicates Custom tape furnished to RCA.
	when used in the FOURTH POSITION, indicates 6 7/8" - 78 rpm - Standard records.
K	when used in the FIRST POSITION of 1954 Matrix numbering code, indicates records made in 1959.
	when used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 7" - LP - Universal & Custom Dept.
K	Kiddies' Records.
KL-1 to 6	Japanese 10" records.
K-1-5	Demonstration Kit (23 November 1933)
K-1	Album for "Two on the Aisle" show set.
K-501 to 525	see Yorkville Co. Record
L	
L	when used as a single Matrix Prefix, indicates 10" records acoustically made in Havana and Lima between 15 March 1913 and 19 November 1913
L	Matrix Prefix for all 33 1/3 rpm (LP) records of all categories. It was then followed by any of the pertinent other prefix letters such as CVE,BVE,CSHQ, etc.)
L	when used in the 1951 Matrix numbering Code in the THIRD POSITION, indicated RED SEAL,Extended Play
	when used in the FOURTH POSITION, indicated 10" LP - Fine.
L	when used in the 1954 Matrix numbering Code, in the FIRST POSITION, indicated records made in 1960.
	when used in the FOURTH POSITION, it indicates 10",LP - Fine Custom or Commercial
L-1	Library Edition Album of 2 pockets - no liners - coloured outside only - board backs.
L-1	Album - Limited Edition of THE SEASON (By DALLAS S.O.) - 1946 - 18-0038 to 0041 (see DL-1)
L-46	"Lunch" period records used by Industrial Sound Division.
LAM	Album - Automatic version of LP early records - Manual version was LM.
L-74	12" - Home recording Blank - H.C.Barton - 3 November 1932
L-185	Liberty Music Shop record (Billy Hill - 1935 ?)
L-1000	Catalogue numbers for 12" LP records.
L-1100	Special for Chevrolet Dance Orchestra(dealer) - d/f - 12" (25 June 1940)
L-10001 et seq.	LP - 12" - Overseas - International Division.
LB	LP - 12" - Overseas - International Division - 2 record set.
LBC	Bluebird Classics - 12" - LP.
LBE	Bluebird Classics : Educational - 12" - LP
LBK	Bluebird Popular Classics - 12" - LP
LBO	Bluebird Original Cast - 12" - LP
LBP	Bluebird Pops - 12" - LP
LBS	Bluebird International and US Foreign issues -
LBY	Bluebird - Children's LP records.
LC	Three record set of LB type.
LCR	Canadian LP - 10"
LCT	Albums : 12" - LP - Collectors' or Treasury - usually Red Seal.
LE	LP Educational records.
LE-1	Album - Limited Edition of 3 12" by BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
LE-3000	10" - LP - Apple Green label - black lettering.
LFM-3000 FAITH	-- dingle LP.
LHMV	LP's from HMV Gramophone Co. tapes or originals.
LJ-50	Japanese - 10" - d/f - LP
LJM	Jazz or Hot Mallets Collectors' records - LP.
LK	Musical Shows - LP version of 'K' albums - 78's or 45's
LKT	Record numbers for LP of 'K' Albums sets - Treasury sets.
LL	"X" Matrix prefixes for 10" - LP
LM	Albums : RED SEAL LP. (Numbers were the same as the M - Masterpiece series.)
LM-1	Album from 10" - d/f LP - RED SEAL - running time: 25 minutes.
LM-1000	Album from 12" - ditto
LM-6000	Album Number for 2 12" d/f RED SEAL LP's.
LMX	Code for Cheaper priced - Not on first labels issued.
LOC-1	Original Cast Show - 10" - LP
LOC-1000	ditto 12" - LP
LPM-	LP Popular record - 10"
LPMX	ditto
LPM-1000	ditto -12"
LPT	Popular Treasury of Immortal performances.
LRM	Multiple record sets of Extended Play records - 45 rpm - (usually composed of a number of EP records)
LPX	Popular LP of 'X' label records.
LR-1-10	LP Reading records : "The Bat" - January 1933
LRB	Matrix number for LP 10" RED SEAL - 7 December 1949
LRC	ditto - for 12"
LRT-7000	Concert Cameo Collection - 10" Treasury Collection.
LRY	Children's Classical 10" - LP records -
-8000	ditto -
-9000	ditto - 12"
LSM-1 to 4999	International 10" - LP
5000	ditto 12" - LP
LST	Catalogue number for Spanish Treasury Album.
LT	Theatre Music - Matrix prefix for Exit or Intermission music - LP - (yellow label with black lettering)
LTBI-	12" - LP - Talking Book : "One more Spring".
LV	Polish Record Review Radio Program
LVA	LP of "X" label - (cancelled)(3026)
LVX	LP Book - "not used"(3013)
LW	Matrix Prefix for RED SEAL records - started 1 April 1952
LX	Popular LP records.
LX-3000	LP - "X" Label 10"
LY-1	Children's Giant Story Book - : Little Nipper.
LY-2000	Children's 10" LP records.
LY-5000	ditto 12" LP records.
M	
M	Prefix for MONARCH - Black label - 10" records issued starting in 1900
M	Album : Musical Masterpieces (see D for Drop sequence and A for Automatic)
M	Matrix prefix for 16" - LP Transcription - started 15 August 1951
M-	Catalogue numbers used for Montgomery-Ward records.
M	Matrix prefix for THEASURUS records (qv)
M	When used in 1951 Matrix Numbering Code, in THIRD POSITION indicates THESAURUS When used in FOURTH POSITION indicates 16" LP Transcriptions.
M	When used in 1954 Matrix numbering Code in FIRST POSITION, indicates records made in 1961
	When used in THIRD POSITION - indicates Transcription
	When used in FOURTH POSITION indicates 16" LP - Standard or Transcription.
M-100	Sale Record Company - Special Job - 10" - 78's
MB	Mexican Bluebird records (3501 to 3507)
MBS	Matrix prefix for Mexican records from Mexican plant - used until about 1955. (These were either dubbed for distribution in the US or electrically transferred)
MC-1 et seq.	Musical categories - Symphonies, etc.
M1-B-64	Engineers' Products : "Chimes at Christmas".
MMC	Musical Memory Contest
MMR	Matrix prefix for Mexican Plant -
MO	Indicates 'Manual Only' for issuance of Albums of Musical Masterpiece series. (see also WMO)
MR	Prefix used for Csardas Phono.Co.(discontinued 28 March 1941)
MS	Modernophone Inc., Personal records : Madame Chiang-Kai-Shek - 31 June 1944 16" records.
MS-1	The Heart Series - 7" - 45 rpm (WDM-1394; 1408;1410)
MV	Matrix prefix for Imported records.
MVE	16" transfers from Moving Pictures (mostly Commercial) to wax.
N	
N	When used in 1954 Matrix numbering Cod, indicates in THE FIRST POSITION records made in 1962
	When used in the THIRD POSITION indicates Promotion or Premium
	When used in the FOURTH POSITION indicates 16" LP - Universal or Transcription.
NBC	National Broadcasting Corporation.
ND-5	Educational transcription Department - 16" Code.number LP-1945.
NW	Prefix used for ARUBA & CURAÇAO records - 10" - d/f - Black label with Gold lettering combining letters and Musical notes. (see also SP)
O	
O	Matrix prefix indicating records made in Cuba by travelling recording units around 1906 to 1910
01 to 01500	Motion Picture Catalogue numbers 1928
0-46	Opening period - records used by Industrial Sound Division.

OC Album : 12" Original Cast recording - Green label - November 1950

OE Overtures and Exits - Motion Picture records Library - 5 September 1929

O When used in the 1951 Matrix numbering Code in the FIRST POSITION, indicates that the original record was made between 1900 and 1909.

P Matrix prefix used before BVE & CVE to denote recordings made on the West Coast of the United States.
A special series P(B or BVE, C or CVE) starting with PB-1 and ending with PBVE-336 was made on the West Coast during 9 June 1924 to 2 June 1927, after which these recordings were allocated blocks from Headquarters.

P Album - Popular Black label records.

P When used in 1951 Matrix numbering Code, IN THE THIRD POSITION, indicates Popular Extended play (6 June 1952)
When used in the FOURTH POSITION, indicates 12" LP - Fine.

P When used in the 1954 Code, in the FIRST POSITION, indicates records made in 1964
When used in the THIRD POSITION, indicates Popular selections.
When used in the FOURTH POSITION, indicates 12" - LP - Fine or Transcription.

P-360 Special for Peru : 40th Anniversary of Lima Firm - SPECIAL LABEL.

P-10000 Chinese Bluebirds

PA Release number for Popular Albums listed in 1946.

PA-100-3 Presidential Addresses in June 1940 album.

P-300-302 Polytone Greek catalogue numbers.

PD6-VB-1587 "P means album series on which electrical transfers are taken in a manner different from Black label popular selections - 4 December 1945 - First used for Whittemore and Lowe - 28 December 1945".

PG Special for PROCTOR & GAMBLE - PG-141 - Tommy DORSEY plays Strauss Waltzes (20-1497/1498)

PK used only as a release number for PK-46-18

PMS PERSONAL MUSIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT (see Catalogue for Same On Records) (SOR) 1956

PW Equivalent in RED SEAL to LW in New Codes.

PR-1 Public Relations - used for Promotional purposes.

PR-2,3 Special for Santa Barbara Festival - NOT IN ANY CATALOGUE - Special design label.

PS Album : used for Presidential Series.

PSB Polish Spot Broadcast records.

Q Matrix assigned for use with records of Outside clients which Victor then processed (100 : 10"; QC - 101 : 12"; QM - 102 - 16")

Q Matrix prefix for 10" Mexican records - no dates known - issued in the V-98100 series)

Q When used in the 1951 Matrix numbering Code in the THIRD POSITION, indicates a Custom Job - lacquers furnished to RCA.

Q When used in the 1954 Code in the FIRST POSITION, indicates records made in 1965.

QM Blue Cross Personals.

R Matrix prefix for 10" records made in Mexico and Argentina between 12 October 1908 and 6 April 1910

R-1 Record Review recorded Broadcast of 1931

R-101-3 Spot Broadcast Record - recorded program.

R-464-1 et seq. Japanese Matrix numbers 1940/1941

R-2911-1 Air Raid over Britain - Personal - 8 October 1941
2912-1 ditto - September 1940

R-1000 Reliable Music Company. (Custom job)

RAL-1001 Rock Jobbers - Ben Selvin - made in Europe - Custom job.

RED SEAL Nomenclature used to designate Classical Artists and Music. Although the specific design changed over the years, the name and colours were retained.

RK-1 Album number used for 26306.

RL-70 et seq. Japanese Record Lovers Society Catalogue numbers for 1941

RV-53 Radio Victrola Tape.

RS-1 7" - d/f - Recording session free to distributors and promotion of singers in single series - 45 rpm.

S Matrix prefix for 10" acousticals made in Mexico in about 1907.

S When used in 1951 Numbering Code in THIRD POSITION, indicates Slide Film.
When used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 6 1/2" - 78's - Standard.

S When used in 1954 Numbering Code, in FIRST POSITION, indicates records made in 1967
When used in THIRD POSITION, indicates Slide Film - Manual.
When used in FOURTH POSITION indicates 6 1/2" - 78 Standard - Custom Dept.

S When used as a third letter in a Tape number, indicates STEREOGRAPHIC (i.e. ECS-)

S When preceded by 1 to 10 (1S,2S), indicates Stamper parts numbers assigned by Mr.Pulley for Parts Shipped.

S When preceded by 2 (2S-2727) - indicates 10" - Envelope from 78 rpm - non-breakable record : Cinderella:31-0013/0014(2S-2728 - 7" at 45 rpm)

S-1 Album : Spanish sets for Export and US Foreign.

S-15 Special Occasions record used by Industrial Sound Division.

S-100's Albums - for Hebrew records.

S-300 to 585 Release numbers for Greek - 10" - 78's

S-347-1 Australian Matrix number.

S-600's & 800's Greek STANDARD PHONO Co. - 12" - 78's(qv)

S-1000;1100;1200 Japanese numbers

S-2800's Turkish 10" - 78's on Orthophonic labels, for STANDARD PHONO CO.(qv)

SA Album for Montgomery Ward records ("?") (sic)

SBO Special Brief Order - 83996 A/B - 78's

SCA-7-31 CAMDEN label - Special Disc Jockey record (May 1956)

SC-1 Album - Show Case - 7" - 45's

SDS-7-1 Special Dealer sample record - 7" - 45's

SE Sound effects records

SLP Album : "Spinach" - Popular series (547-0790) - discontinued March 1957.

SLP-2 ditto - 3 pocket set.

"Sonora Circle" - Scandinavian Music House, Special Job - 24 February 1941

S.O.R. "Save on Records" coupon books - PERSONAL - Music Service Dept. (also listed under PMS)

SP Release pre-fix for CURACAO records - see NW Prefix for Matrices.

SP Carlos GARDEL exploitation record (s/f) - 1935

SP When preceded by 1 (1-SP) - Stamper work part for Disk Jockey series.

SPA-7-27 Special sample for Disc Jockeys - 7" - 45's.

SPD Demonstration record : The Fabulous 45's (Extended play)

SPD Album : Special Digest of 7" "Listeneres' records - 45's

SPG "Groove" record sampler - LP

SPINNER RECORDS 6 1/2" - 78's started May 1948 - see 99-1000's

SPL Prefix for BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE CLASSROOM - A Production of Electrical Research Products. Black labels, Gold lettering with Western Electric logo under the Title.

SPL-12-14 CONFIDENTIAL for Field men - NOT FOR SALE

SPV-2 Record Number : Popular 33 1/3 - special for LIGHTHOUSE SINGERS - Previously LXA-1037)

SR PUBLISHERS' SERVICE Catalogue Prefix.:Special Series ordered by the NEW YORK POST and made up of re-issues without names of artists, of material normally issued on RED SEAL. The special labels showed the picture of the Composer on an ivory background with Gold borders, while another identical series had blue labels with Gold lettering. The former were entitled "PHILHARMONIC TRANSCRIPTION" and the latter "THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSIC" in cursive printing.

SRA-7-1 HEARING IS BELIEVING - Special sampler (probably 7" - 45's)

SRF De Luxe Packing (July 1954)

SRL-12-1 as SRA-7-1 but 12" - LP's.

SS-1 Special for Simon and Schuster(PUBLISHING Co.) - d/f - 20 November 1940

ST Spanish Transcription Programs - 1932

STANDARD PHONO Co.: This was a Special series, processed by Victor of a full variety of Popular selections recorded by Victor Artists and also others. The Catalogue numbers were either "T" or "F" prefixed and many of the artists assumed 'noms-du-disque' for the series.

SUNRISE RECORDS - Special Series which carried a Red and Yellow or Black and Gold labels and were usually re-issues of Bluebird records.

SVC Matrix prefix for Shanghai Chinese records - 14 December 1937

SVE Matrix prefix for 6" - 78 rpm - electrical records.

SY Album number for Spanish Juvenile and Children non-breakable records(24-9000's)

T

T Matrix and Catalogue prefix used by STANDARD PHONO Co. (qv)

T Matrix prefix for Army V-Discs (qv)

T Album of Treasury or Collectors selections.

T Matrix prefix used for TRIALS or TESTS for possible new Artists.

T When used in 1951 Numbering Code in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 6", 78 rpm, Standard - 23 July 1953.

T When used in 1954 Code IN FIRST POSITION, indicates records made in 1968
When used in THIRD POSITION - indicates International, recorded in USA.
When used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 6" - 78 rpm - Standard Children's records

T-1-80 Theatre Records - 78 rpm (ca.1933) - see also LT.

T-34 Test records made for technical purposes.

T-49 Test record for Spiral Grooves.

T-78 Test record - 10" - for vertical blank grooves.
T-100 Album number used for Argentine plant.

T-304 COUNTRY LIFE PRESS - Talking Books, Garden City - see GARDEN CITY.

T-511 Album : Standard Phono Co. - Custom job - 3 September 1943

T-2216 et seq. Test records for Frequencies.

T-2406 Test Recording 1936 : Bombardment.
TB Talking Books - (Special to the trade)
TB-1-4 Talking Books : One More Spring (7 July 1933)

TC Electrical Transfer - 12"

TH Matrix and Catalogue prefix for Theremin records.

THESAURUS Orthacoustic, White label - 16" - Radio transcriptions - Radio Recording Division of NBC. (Matrix prefix was MS)

TIMELY TUNES - Special series which re-issued many Bluebird records. Catalogue numbers carried Prefix "C" - and numbers went from 1550 to 1590.

TM Electrical transfer - 16"

TS-2518 Lecture record for Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia - 15 September '44

TX When preceded by a number : Transferred and reserved. Part in OM Dept. in 1945.

U

U Album : Letter used in Branch Plant (no country is indicated)

U When used in FOURTH POSITION in 1951 Matrix numbering code, indicates LP Custom job (23 July 1953)

U When used in FIRST POSITION in 1954 Code, indicates records made in 1969.
When used in THIRD POSITION, indicates Slide Film - Universal
When used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 7" - LP - Fine - Custom Department.

V

V Letter used to indicate a 7" - Pre-matrix and early VICTOR record. (The 10" size carried the M for Monarch) (qv)

V- Catalogue prefix for US Foreign or Imported black and other labels.

V Album : Manual - De Luxe

V Japanese - New Series (December 1949) - for 10" - d/f

V When used in 1951 Matrix numbering Code in THIRD POSITION, indicates Popular.

V When used in 1954 Code in FIRST POSITION, indicates record made in 1970
When used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 7" - 78 rpm - Standard Spinner record.

V-1-192/3 Speech record : Will Hays for Warner Brothers (also VX-6 in M-192)

VA Matrix prefix for 6 1/2" - LP.

VA Catalogue prefix for Salon Music (i.e. VA-10044)

VA Special Catalogue Number used by Gramo. Co. for 10" of ARCHIVE SERIES.

VA- Matrix numbers (with 300 or 500) for 16" VITAPHONE Corp., 1600 Broadway, New York in 1927 (when released they dropped the letters thus: VI-)

VB Special Catalogue number used by Gramo Co. for 12" of ARCHIVE SERIES.

VC Victor Vocal Culture (Saenger Singing lessons)

VD Japanese Matrix Number

V-DISC Special Wartime releases for Overseas. (Steve Scholes in Charge). (These were transcriptions and dubs not only of Victor records)

VE Matrix Prefixes of acetates (Prestos) imported from Venezuela for dubbing and distribution with US Catalogue numbers.

VE-1010 Catalogue number for Gramo. Instr.

VENEZUELA Matrix No. BS-037464 only (No catalogue assigned)

VH Catalogue number - Gramo. Orchestral

VK RED SEAL Catalogue number (VK-3004)

VL-1 Japanese - 12" - Toscanini record released in Yokohama in November 1941 (Gold Paper label)

VR Matrix prefix for US Army V-Discs (per Steve Scholes). (Various letters indicate other Companies' records)

VRS-1,2,3 Victor Record Society - Gold label - Limited edition - 3 July 1931.

VS Swing Music - Green label (VS-15004)

VX Matrix number 45 - 7 1/2" record.

VX-6 see V-1-192/3

YY Catalogue number for Spinner record - 78 rpm - duration 2 1/2 minutes.

W

W Album number for Branch Plant : Spanish

W Catalogue prefix for Custom Job for Woolworth records (see also Electradisc)

W When used in 1951 Numbering Code, in the FOURTH POSITION, indicates 7" - 45's Fine.

W When used in 1954 Numbering Code in FIRST POSITION indicates records made in 1971
When used in THIRD POSITION, indicates Country, Western.
When used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 7" - 45's - Fine - RCA Victor Commercial

WBC Album : Bluebird classical - 45's (Catalogue prefix:249-)

WBE Album : Bluebird Educational - 45's

WBK Album : Bluebird Popular Classics - 45's

WBS Album : Bluebird International - 45's

WBY Album : Bluebird Little Nipper Jr. - 45's

WC Album : Collection of 7" - 45's - see also WCT.

WCT Album : Collectors & Treasury - 7" - 45's (Catalogue prefix:17-)

WDC Album - Concert series - Automatic - 7" - 45's

WE Educational records - 45s- 7"

WEC Educational Sets - 45's - 7"

WEC-101 Album : 1 Volume of 7" - 45's - "English in the United States" instead of Two volumes.

WEJ Catalogue number for Encyclopaedia of Jazz - Custom records for J.J.Little & Ives - 13 July 1953. - 45's.

WEPP Changed to EKA(qv) - 1 to 5 as of 14 August 1952

WEPR Changed to ERA-1 to 50 (qv) - as of 14 August 1952

WHJ Album : Hot Jazz - 7" - 45's - 21 July 1950

WHMV Album of HMV 45's.

WK Album : Double-feature - Popular Classics.

WKL Album - LP Treasury sets

WKT Changed to EKB(qv) - as of 14 August 1952

WL European Branch Plant - for South African LP's - also WT.

WM Album sets for 7" - 45's : WDM :Drop automatic sets
WDMC : Multiple Album sets.

WMO Album designation for MO sets (qv) - now 7" - 45's. "A. & R. decided for the future, no M sets available - call them all WDM. 20 October 1949"

WOC-1 Album of 7" - 45's for Original Cast records. (19-0001 to 0005)

WP Album - Popular - Black label - 7" - 45's

WPT Collectors' Treasury of Popular selections - 7" - 45's (Cat.prefix:27-)

WRY Album : RED SEAL YOUTH - 45's
-8000 for 10"
-9000 for 12"

WST-14 Album for Montgomery Ward Co. - 8 sides (7" - 45's) of Nelson EDDY & Jeannette MacDonald : 17-0165 to 0168)

WS Album - International - 7" - 45's

WSB-30 Kit : contains 30 records - 7" - 45's - Popular Red Seal, etc - for Seeburg/ Clare - Hawaii - for Coin Operators.

WSY Album - Youth records - 7" - 45's

WY Children's 45's - 7"

X

X Matrix prefix for Havana records made from 1924 on. Became XVE (for electrics) on 29 October 1925

X Album : Mexico plant (circa 1940) - also XM

X Catalogue prefix for Picture-records (1932 - Export)

X-1 Japanese Catalogue numbers

X Matrix prefix for Chinese and Japanese. Numbers following all began with 0 (i.e. X-01398)

X When used in 1951 Numbering Code in THIRD POSITION indicates Foreign - not recorded in US.

X When used in 1954 Numbering Code in FIRST POSITION, indicates records made in 1972
When used in FOURTH POSITION, indicates 7 1/2 ips. single-track tape - As of 13 March 1956 this became double track.

X When used after 1 or 1A 'take' indicates a reserve part in O.M.Dept.files as of 27 March 1945.

X-1-15 8" - Export - d/f - 14 September 1932

X-1000 Acetate - Picture records.

X-1012 Japanese numbers (JSX-1800)

X-16000-160191 Dubs from Catalogue No.2 (35000 to 35020)

XA Export of Little Nipper series.

XL Matrix prefix for Frequency Tests (Engineers')

X & XVE Matrix prefix for travelling units recordings outside United States mainly in Latin America.

Y

Y Album : Youth series - through 6 years of age (1 to 299)

Y When used in 1954 Matrix numbering Code in FIRST POSITION, indicates record made in 1972

Y-300 Album - Youth series - "on the way to 12 years of age"

Y-458 Catalogue number for Children's 78's

Club & Society News

The Association of Recorded Sound Collections will hold its annual meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, April 23-25, 1981. Hosts for this year's convention are public radio station WUNC-FM and the Department of Music, both of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Among the speakers to be included on the program are Martin Williams (Smithsonian Institution), Dan Morgenstern (Institute of Jazz Studies), and Bob Pinson (Country Music Foundation). Other presentations will focus on such topics as "Early 1930's recordings by Stokowski," "Recorded repertoire of the 1890's," "The sound of early sheet music," "Spoken word recordings," "Current audio restoration and transfer technology," "Recordings of Fats Waller," and "A Feuermann Discography."

For registration information contact Kathryn Logan, Music Library, 106 Hill Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 (919-966-1113).

HERE & THERE

The 3 pages illustrated on the preceding page are all page 7 from the August, 1928 supplement of Victor Records -- and yet they're all different! Collectors who are interested in original literature should be aware that for awhile Victor published separate editions of their supplements for different regions of the country. The first page shown is from the northeast edition; the second is from the midwest, while the third comes from the northwest. Code letters (NE, MW. etc.) at the bottom of the last page identify the individual regions. There was undoubtedly a fourth edition for the south, and perhaps others as well.

The reader will also note that there are records listed in the third illustrated page which are not familiar to collectors in the east; many never appeared in the Victor catalogue. As the heading suggests, they were issued for consumption on the West Coast only, though some of them eventually found their way into nation-wide distribution. No. 21383 by Hawley and Donahoo, for example, never made it nation-wide, while 21343 by Harry McClintock did.

Photocopies of these pages were furnished by Darrell Lehman.

In the near future we hope to begin sorting through all the MADISON data sent in by our readers. When we first undertook this project, we anticipated few problems. Instead, Madison turns out to be a discographer's nightmare with more than its share of contradictory data! In the meantime, if you have any Madisons that you haven't let us know about, please jot just their catalogue numbers on a postcard and send it in as soon as possible. We will get back to you immediately if we need further details of your record(s). We also lack any printed matter on this label, but understand that Woolworth's ran newspaper ads for Madisons. If any of our readers have access to any newspaper ads, we'd greatly appreciate having Xeroxes.

11.

A reader writes: "I recently picked up a 'RADIC' record. It has a black and gold label. At the top of it is an old-fashioned radio speaker, the word 'RADIO' with twin radio towers on either side. The edge of the label resembles a 'scroll' Victor. It reads - RADIO / Record No. 201-A "Sweet Violets" (A Real Beau!) (Covered All Over with Snow) / - Part 3 - / Five Special Verses. The reverse reads "Hootshe Kootshe" (Sing It with Me) (Benny Samberg) by the Club Cassada Orchestra (with vocal refrain) / Radio Record Co. 1658 Broadway / New York, N.Y. No takes are shown. Does anyone know anything about this strange record?" Mike Biel, where are you?

Help! We goofed. Shortly after the last issue appeared we received a subscription from a W. Cook. Somehow his address became lost before a subscription card got typed. Can anyone notify us of Mr. Cook's full name and address?

items to trade::

EDISON 10 INCH LONG PLAYS 10002-10004

EDISON 12 INCH LONG PLAY 30002

EDISON 78's NEEDLE CUTS

BUSY BEE CYLINDERS IN ORIGINAL BOXES AND LIDS

7 INCH BERLINERS

"VOGUE" PICTURE RECORDS

10 INCH RECORDS - STANDARD TALKING, HARMONY, BUSY BEE, ARETINO

PFANSTIEHL SEMI-PERMANENT 78's NEEDLES

MODEL "A" STANDARD TALKING MACHINE REAR MOUNT - ALL ORIGINAL

VICTOR "EXHIBITION" & NO 2 REPRODUCERS

T. A. ROOSEVELT BLUE AMBEROL #3709
"SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL JUSTICE"

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BOOK REVIEW: Edison Blue Amberol Recordings, by Ronald Dethlefsen

Edison enthusiasts are a fortunate lot. Another fine reference work has recently made its appearance and is well worth considering.

Ron Dethlefsen's book Edison Blue Amberol Recordings concentrates on the "live" Blue Amberols (as opposed to those dubbed from Diamond Discs) made between November, 1912 and January, 1915. To this end, the bulk of the book is devoted to a reproduction of original record leaflets and monthly supplements. One can now choose from over 300 titles and read along as the records play. (Imagine being able to put together a program of records with "period" annotations à la a 1981 disc jockey!) These record leaflets can be very interesting and informative to the record collector; their main drawback is that they tend to tell more about the songs' composers than the artists who recorded them -- a fault of the Edison publicity department and not Mr. Dethlefsen's!

Included in the leaflet section is an announcement and listing of the very rare series of school records. ("...these Records are just the thing with which to help the delinquent along and keep him or her up with the class.") The listing contains several records in spelling dictation, but there are also such intriguing titles as "General Problems in the Application of Percentage" or "Ten Problems in Analysis and Proportion."

However, the book is much more than Blue Amberol leaflets. It begins with an introduction by the venerable Jim Walsh. Following this is a lengthy historical overview of the Blue Amberol Record -- everything from the choice of the Amberol name in 1908 to the end of production in 1929. There is much new information to be gleaned from this section, including how to identify alternate takes on Blue Amberols.

Following the leaflet section, previously mentioned, are several shorter but important chapters. In the first, "'Live' Recordings," the author shows the nearly 100 records that came out after 1914 that weren't dubbed, along with dates of issue (as late as 1928) and original wax Amberol numbers when known.

Next comes the alphabetical index of all titles issued during the "live" years (up to January, 1915), again accompanied by wax Amberol numbers. The value of this information should not be underestimated, as the collector can easily ascertain if a desired wax record was also issued in blue celluloid, thereby avoid investing in the fragile wax version.

The "Performers on Blue Amberol Records" section contains photographs and thumbnail biographies of some of the more prominent artists during the early B.A. period. A performers' index follows, showing all artists who appeared on the "live" Blue Amberols, along with issue numbers.

The final section is, to me, the most fascinating: "Ediphone School Records." These are not the same as

the earlier Blue Amberol school records, but were a series of celluloid cylinders made long after Edison discontinued records for home use. They were being made after the United States entered World War II when, in 1943, Howard A. Miller (son of Edison recording expert Walter Miller) dictated the entire process to an Edison Voicewriter. Much of this process -- from master wax to cleaning and finishing -- was certainly the same as in the days of the Blue Amberol, so Mr. Dethlefsen includes the entire transcript of it in this section, along with a photo of three of the records. The advanced collector who thinks he has nothing new to discover will surely be astounded to learn that production of these records continued until 1960. It's absolutely "mind blowing" to this writer to think that the moulded celluloid cylinder overlapped the modern microgroove lp by more than a decade!

The book is interspersed with facsimiles of much original Edison literature, photos of records and boxes, as well as a picture of two existing working moulds. It should be noted that only the records issued in the American popular series are covered in this volume.

Physically, the book is of the highest quality throughout. Its 206 pages are printed on heavy stock. The edition is limited to 500 copies and may be ordered @ \$20.95 from Allen Koenigsberg, 650 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226. The price is reduced by a dollar to his APM subscribers, but after March 31st the price goes to \$21.95 to all.

-- Martin Bryan

AUCTION

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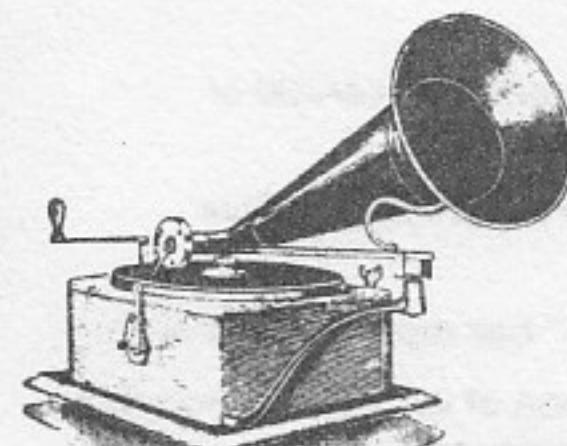
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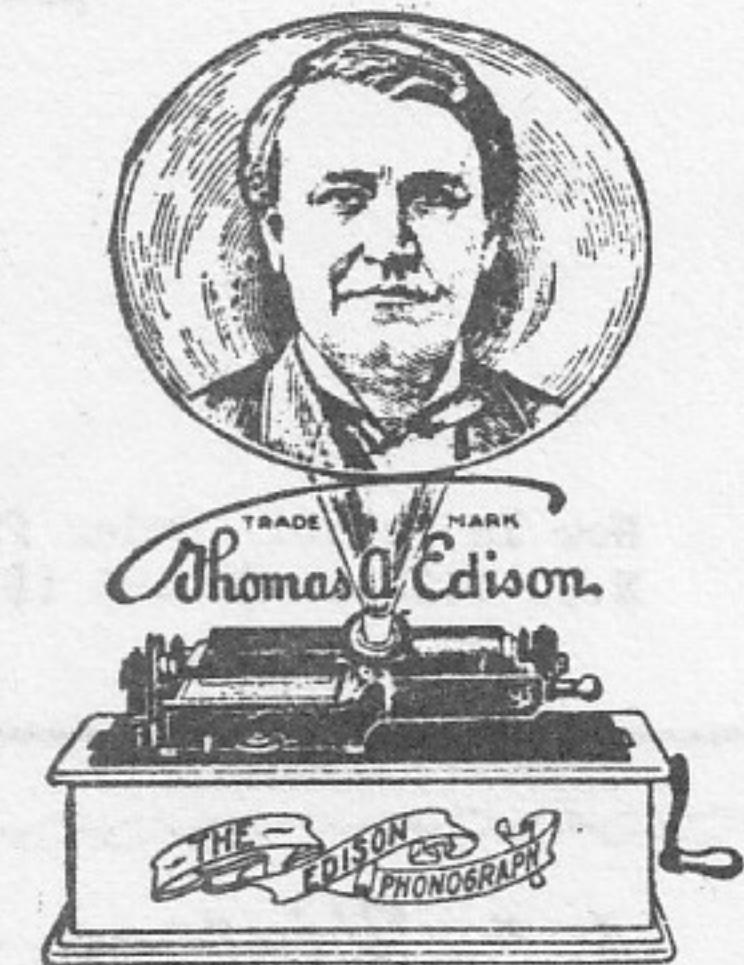
In preparation, The San Carlo Grand Opera Company--volume two. Coming later---The Scotti Opera Company and The Boston National Opera Company (in one book).

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FEDERAL 5330 - 5363 - 5365 - 5368
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OLYMPIC 14115 - 14116 - 17113
ORIOLE 511 (controls only) 260 - 295 - 658 -
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785 - 813 - 840 - all with Hawaiian
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32277 Lay Down Doggies - 32307 - 32318
32335 - 32359 - 32361 - 32373
PERFECT 12345 - 12352 - 12356 Lay Down
Doggies - 12386 - 12397 - 12414 -
12438 - 12440 - 12452
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SILVERTONE 2020 - 2165 - 2170 - 2337 -
2352 - 2363 - 2365 - 2387 - 2393
TRIANGLE 11262, 11335
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1921
1927
1928

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1918 (May)
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1923 (about 20 pp. at rear sl. torn
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1930
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